

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 091505Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 210

S E C R E T LOME 0280

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AO, TO

SUBJECT: EYADEMA'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA

REF: (A) LOME 0279, (B) STATE 030983, (C) LOME 0271,
(D) LOME 0243,

1. FONMIN SECRETARY GENERAL DE MADEIROS ASKED ME DURING CONVERSATION REPORTED REF (A) WHETHER I HAD RECEIVED RESPONSE FROM WASHINGTON TO PRESIDENT EYADEMA'S REQUEST FOR WESTERN ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA (REF D). HE SAID GERMAN REPLY HAD ARRIVED, BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT FRENCH. (AT AIRPORT FEBRUARY 6 GERMAN AMBASSADOR TOLD ME HIS GOVERNMENT HAD RESPONDED THAT ANGOLA WAS AFRICAN PROBLEM AND FRG WOULD PROVIDE ONLY HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOLD ME HE DID NOT EXPECT REPLY FROM PARIS.)

2. WHEN I INQUIRED WHETHER FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS INSTRUCTED TO ASK ABOUT US REPLY, DE MADEIROS SAID "NO, BECAUSE MATTER BEING HANDLED AS EXTREMELY DELICATE." SPECULATING ABOUT EYADEMA'S MOTIVATION, SECGEN BELIEVED PRESIDENT'S REQUEST MIGHT SIGNIFY "TURN TOWARD WEST" WHICH WE SHOULD EXPLOIT. I REMINDED DE MADEIROS THAT WE WERE ALWAYS ALERT TO OPENINGS FOR POSITIVE MOVES TO ENHANCE US-TOGOLESE RELATIONS, EVEN DURING DEPRESSING PERIOD LAST SUMMER WHEN RUMORS ABOUNDED LOCALLY THAT US EMBASSY WAS INVOLVED WITH MILITARY OFFICER SUSPECTED OF COUP PLOTTING.

3. COMMENT: DE MADEIROS MAY NOT EQUATE SOVIET INFLUENCE IN TOGO
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WITH THAT OF CHINA AND NORTH KOREA, BUT FACT REMAINS THAT LATTER

IS BY FAR THE STRONGER. I THINK TOGOLESE ARE BEGINNING TO APPRECIATE
AWESOME PHYSICAL FORCE WHICH USSR IS CAPABLE OF APPLYING WHEN
AND WHERE IT WISHES. AS SUGGESTED REF (C), CHINA, AND EVEN NORTH
KOREA, NEED ONLY STAND APART FROM THIS FRAY.
RAWLS

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NNN

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